

## Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 /062 W

----- 019304

R 101205Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9489

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T TEHRAN 10208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR

SUBJ: TU-95 OVERFLIGHTS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 10046 (DTG 060855Z OCT 76), (B) USDAO TEHRAN

IR 6 846 0147 76, (C) STATE 247106 (DTG 050104Z OCT 76)

1. ARMA MET WITH LTG MOGHADDAM, J2, SCS, 7 OCT IN CONNECTION WITH REFTEL C.

2. ARMA NOTED PAST SOVIET IL -38 OVERFLIGHTS OF IRAN AND PRACTICE OF SOVIETS IN REQUESTING OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR IL-18'S AND SUBSEQUENTLY CARRYING OUT OVERFLIGHTS WITH IL-38'S. IN SUPPORT OF THIS VIEW, ARMA SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE OVERFLIGHT OF 14 SEP 76 AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT TWO AIRCRAFT MAKING THE OVERFLIGHT WERE IL-38'S NOT IL-18'S. LTG MOGHADDAM WAS SHOWN PICTURES OF IL-18'S AND IL-38'S TAKEN FROM JANE'S ALL THE WORLD'S AIRCRAFT, 1975-76, AND FEATURES DIFFERENTIATING THE TWO AIRCRAFT WERE POINTED OUT. A COMPARISON WAS THEN MADE OF THE AIRCRAFT IDENTIFIED BY JANE'S AND THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE IIAF DURING THE 14 SEPT OVERFLIGHT WHICH CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THE AIRCRAFT AS IL-38'S. MOGHADDAM AGREED AND SAID THAT NOT ONLY HAD THE SOVIETS CONSISTENTLY LIED IN THEIR

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OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE REQUESTS, BUT THEIR WHOLE BEHAVIOR

IN THIS RESPECT WAS EXTREMELY CRUDE, SINCE THEY KNEW THAT IRAN WAS AWARE OF THEIR DECEPTION.

3. ARMA THEN MENTIONED THAT THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A CHANGE WITH RESPECT TO THE MOST RECENT SOVIET OVER-FLIGHT OF IRAN AND THAT A TU-95 WAS NOW BEING USED. (NOTE: PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH MOGHADDAM, ARMA HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE INTERPRETER, AN IRANIAN OFFICER, THAT LTG MOGHADDAM WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE TU-95 OVERFLIGHT OF IRAN ON 5 OCTOBER.) HE WENT ON TO MAKE THE POINTS OUTLINED IN PARA 1, REFTEL C. STRESS WAS PLACED ON THE FACT THAT TU-95 ACTIVITY IN CUBA AND GUINEA SUGGESTS THAT TU-95'S WILL REPEATEDLY BE SENT TO SOMALIA WHICH WILL IN TURN MEAN THAT UNLESS THE SOVIETS CHOOSE ANOTHER OVERFLIGHT ROUTE, IRAN WILL BE REPEATEDLY OVERFLOWN BY A TYPE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT WHICH COMES IN HEAVY BOMBER AS WELL AS RECONNAISSANCE VERSIONS. AT THIS POINT ARMA AGAIN USED JANE'S TO SHOW MOGHADDAM THE SIX DIFFERENT TU-95 BOMBER/RECONNAISSANCE VARIANTS, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY WAY TO DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC VERSION OVERFLYING IRAN WOULD BE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS AND HAVE QUALIFIED ANALYSTS EVALUATE SAME. MOGHADDAM NODDED HIS APPROVAL OF THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

4. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT WAS NOT PURSUED BY MOGHADDAM IT IS FELT BY ARMA THAT THE POINT REGARDING THE POSSIBLE REPEATED OVERFLIGHT OF IRAN BY AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD BE HEAVY BOMBER VARIANTS OF THE TU-95 WAS DULY NOTED AND THAT LTG MOGHADDAM WILL BE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF ANY IIAF PHOTOGRAPHIC EFFORT.

5. WHILE WE THINK WE GOT OUR MESSAGE ACROSS IN THE RIGHT GOI QUARTERS, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEY WILL TURN SOVIET TU-95 OVERFLIGHTS OFF IN THE FUTURE.  
HELMS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SURVEILLANCE, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 OCT 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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